

MYRMECONAUCLEA, A NEW GENUS OF RUBIACEOUS
PLANTS FROM PALAWAN AND BORNEO

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MYRMECONAUCLEA genus novum

Flores in capitulum globosum compacti, ebracteolati, calycibus arcte concretis, lobis 5, partes deciduae spathulatae, partes persistentes lanceolatae. Corollae tubus anguste infundibularibus. Stamina in tubo corollae inclusa. Stylus elongatus, stigma subglobosum. Fructus in syncarpium globosum vel depresso-globosum connati, endocarpium superne incrassatum. Semina longe alata. Arbuscula, foliis oppositis, stipulatis; capitulis solitariis, terminalibus bracteatis.

MYRMECONAUCLEA STRIGOSA (Korth.) comb. nov.

Nauclea strigosa Korth. Verh. Nat. Gesch. (1839-42) 157; Miq. Fl. Ind. Bat. 2 (1857) 138; Havil. in Journ. Linn. Soc. Bot. 33 (1897) 52, t. 2.

Sarcocephalus fluviatilis Elm. Leaf. Philip. Bot. 4 (1912) 1357.

Neonauclea strigosa Merr. in Journ. Wash. Acad. Sci. 5 (1915) 542.

This characteristic species was originally described from Bornean material, and is at present known only from Borneo and Palawan. Haviland has given an excellent detailed figure of it, and also gives a rather lengthy discussion of it. Korthals had no fruiting specimen, and hence placed it in the genus *Nauclea* (= *Neonauclea*). Haviland followed him in this disposition of it although he indicated that it was anomalous in this genus in that its fruit is concrete and forms a syncarp. I consider that it is as anomalous in *Sarcocephalus*, where it was placed by Elmer, as it is in *Nauclea* and accordingly have proposed a new generic name for it. It differs radically from *Nauclea* auct. (= *Neonauclea*) in its concrete fruits forming a syncarp and as radically from *Sarcocephalus* (= *Nauclea* Linn.) in its winged seeds.

Haviland has discussed somewhat at length the peculiar fruit characters of this species, but he apparently did not have fully mature fruits. In age the persistent tips of the calyx segments

fall, leaving a small perforation at the apex of each individual fruit through which it is apparent that the small, slender, winged seeds escape, dissemination of seeds apparently covering a considerable period of time.

The generic name is derived from the Greek *μύρμηκος*, ant, and *Nauclea*, a genus to which the present one is closely allied, as a certain percentage of the branchlets always present hollow swellings, perforated on one side, which are inhabited by colonies of small ants.

In habitat the species is exceedingly characteristic, as it always grows on the banks, and on gravel bars in the beds, of small shaded mountain streams, always in places subject to overflow in times of heavy rain; frequently the shrubs stand in constantly running water as does the euphorbiaceous *Homonioia riparia* Lour. It occurs in Palawan at altitudes from sea level to about 300 meters.

I have examined the following material representing the species: BORNEO, Sarawak, Mount Merinjak, *Native collector 2588, 2620 (Bur. Sci.)*. PALAWAN, Alfonso XIII, *For. Bur. 21587 Danao, April 9, 1914; Caruray, For. Bur. 27289 Flores; Taytay, Merrill Phil. Pl. 1201; Napsahan, Merrill 7234; region of Puerto Princesa, Merrill 724, Elmer 12848*. The Philippine specimen cited by Haviland as *Vidal 1445* is *Vidal 1448*. It is labeled as from Luzon but in all probability came from Palawan.